Voiceful

nawoko

VOICEFUL

They say no one's ever heard her voice in person...

Meet Kanae, an introvert about to have her life transformed in the most unusual way—through music. Kanae's transformation begins when she accidentally bumps into Hina, an independent singer who releases her music via the Internet. As the girls become good friends, they quickly find that they've become one another's inspiration—in more ways than one!

Also includes the short stories "Someone Special" & "Opening"!

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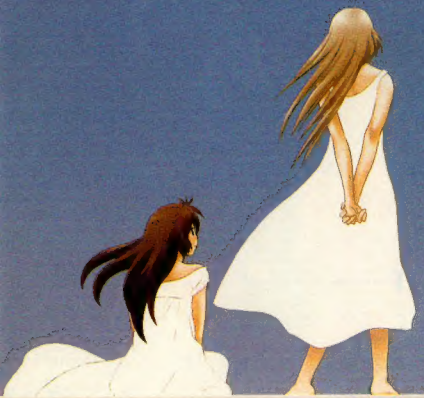
STRAWBERRY MANGA

voiceful

by nawoko



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ファイル
編集

voiceful 1st

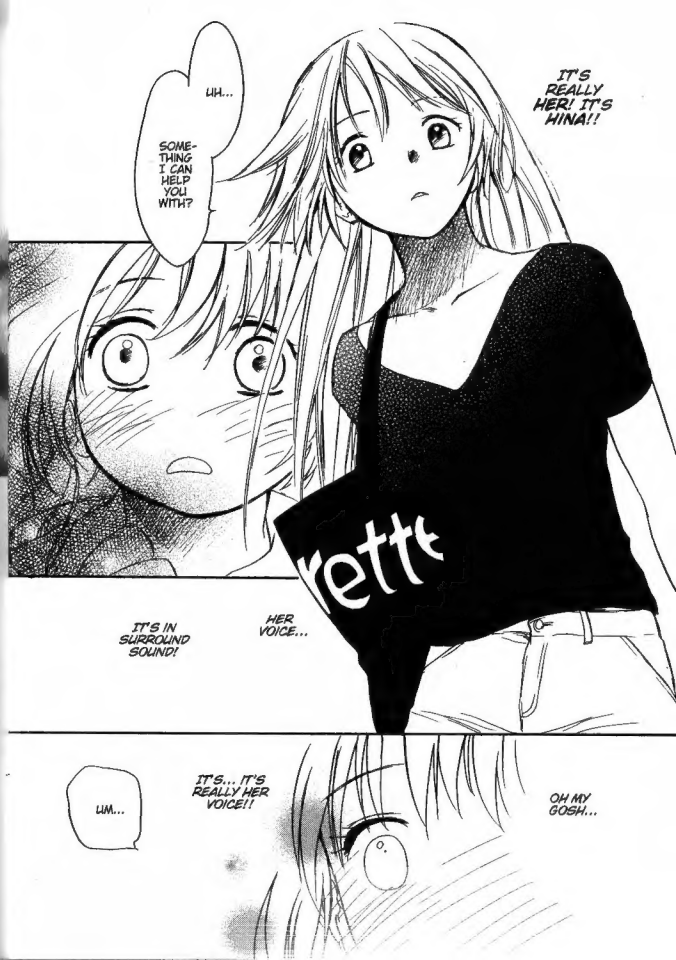
Perfect. My transformation's complete.
THANKS A LOT! COME AGAIN!
YEAH!
stare
.....
HUH?
IS THAT HOW IT IS IN THE PICTURE?
RUSTLE
hmmm...
THE BANGS LOOK ABOUT RIGHT...
OH, IT'S PERFECT! I NOW HAVE THE SAME HAIR AS HER!

IT'S BEEN ABOUT A MONTH...
SINCE I STARTED GOING OUTSIDE.
Glasses
I'M OKAY, I'M OKAY...
squeeze
VRREEN
OH, COME ON IN! WELCOME!
THERE. ALL DONE.
I THINK THIS LOOK REALLY SUITS YOU!
AND IF I DO, I JUST SIT IN THE NURSE'S OFFICE.
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
I HAVEN'T GONE TO SCHOOL MUCH...

AH...!!
NO WAY...!

SINCE I'VE FELT THIS GOOD.
I WONDER HOW LONG IT'S BEEN...
IT'S SUCH A NICE DAY...
This is just what I wanted.
Yes!
Enjoy!
Thank you very much.
IT'S ALL THANKS TO HINA.
IF I EVER GET TO MEET HER...
I REALLY WANT TO THANK HER.
RUSTLE
HINA

dumbfounded
I LOVE YOU!
AND... I WISH YOU ALL THE HAPPINESS IN THE WORLD!!
UH...
HUH...?
H-HERE YOU GO! THIS IS FOR YOU!!
EXTEND
UHM... UH...!
OH!
FRET
UM... ER...
FRET


UH... SOMETHING I CAN HELP YOU WITH?
IT'S REALLY HER! IT'S HINA!!
IT'S IN SURROUND SOUND!
HER VOICE...
UM...
IT'S... IT'S REALLY HER VOICE!!
OH MY GOSH...

ROLL
ROLL
OH CRAP...
WHY? WHY DID I HAVE TO GIVE HER...
STRAW-BERRY DAIFUKU?!
NOT ONLY THAT...
BUT MY HAIR WAS CUT AND STYLED EXACTLY LIKE HERS!!
WHOA!
I'm such an idiot!
PANT
PANT
WHAM
OH, I'M SO EMBAR-RASSED...
I COULD JUST DIE.
MY ONE AND ONLY CHANCE TO MEET THE REAL HINA, AND I BLEW IT.
OH, HEY, HINA.
HEY, GUYS... IT'S ME.

OH NO! I'M GONNA LOSE IT...! AAHH!!
AH!
WAIT...!
DASH!
HUH...?
OH MY GOSH! OH MY GOSH!! SHE ACCEPTED IT!!
UHHH...
UMM...
Bow
WHA...?!
SLAM
OH MY GOSH! WHAT DID I JUST DO?!!
OH...
HOME ALREADY?
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP

I MET MY GODDESS.
THEY SAY NO ONE'S EVER HEARD HER VOICE IN PERSON...
THAT SHE'S SOME SORT OF "MYTHICAL DIVA."
EVERYBODY HAD A DIFFERENT WAY OF DESCRIBING IT, I FOUND OUT...
BUT ONCE YOU'VE HEARD HER VOICE, IT STAYS WITH YOU.
A VOICE FULL OF EMOTION.

CLICK
WE'RE NOT QUITE READY TO START RECORDING YET. YOU COOL TO WAIT AROUND?
YEAH, THAT'S FINE.
CLICK
CLICK
HINA'S VOICE...
I REALLY DID MEET HER...
Songs
CLICK

OH.
NO, IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT.
HEY, I'M FINE WITH IT.
WHY? ARE YOU UNHAPPY? LACKING SOMETHING?
BUT I CAN'T LEAN ON YOU FOREVER, HIRU-CHAN.
YEAH.
WHAT'S UP, HINA?
LYRICS BUGGING YOU?
BUT I CAN'T FIND THE RIGHT WORDS TO SAY IT.
YOU'RE AMAZING.
I CAN PUT IT IN MY VOICE...
I JUST...
WANT TO CONNECT MORE... Y'KNOW... DIRECTLY.
YOU'RE BEING GREEDY.

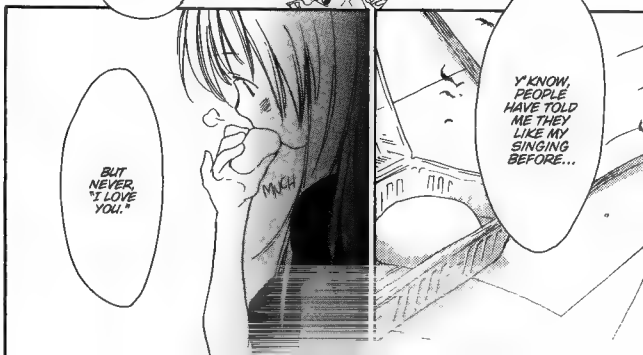
HINA'S VOICE HAS SO MUCH PAIN IN IT.
IT WAS LIKE A CANDLE, SHINING IN THE DARKNESS.
BUT HINA IS REALLY THERE. SHE'S HOLDING ON. SHE'S SINGING.
JUST KNOWING HINA'S ALIVE...
IT GIVES ME COURAGE.
HMM...
I FORGOT...
TO THANK HER.

I WISH YOU ALL THE HAPPINESS IN THE WORLD!!
HINA...
WE'RE READY NOW--
WHOA.
UH, WHAT'S WRONG, HINA? WHY'RE YOU CRYING?

OH YEAH...
THAT GIRL GAVE ME THIS.
open

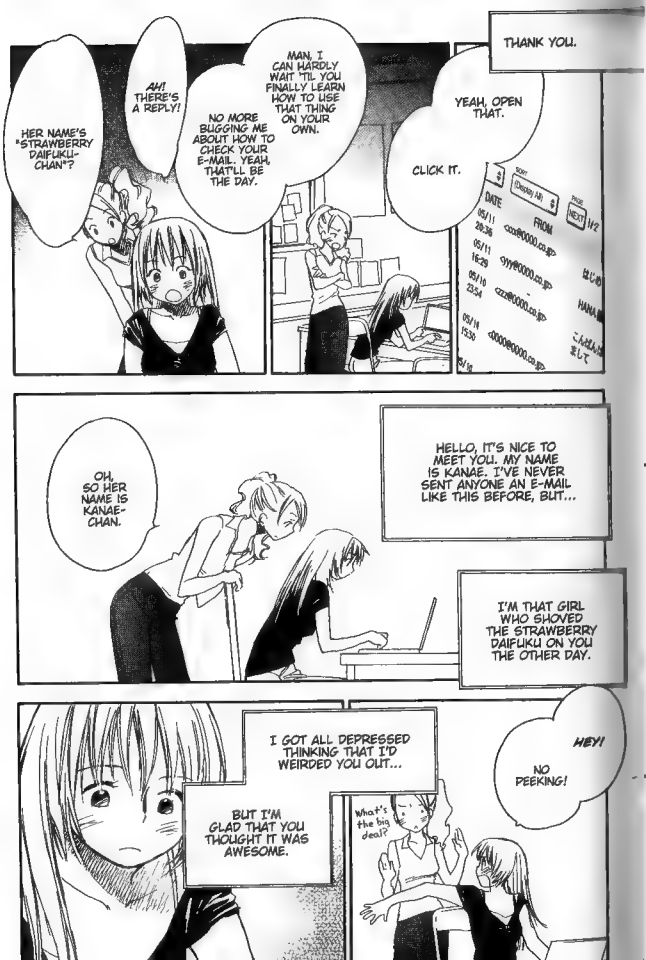
SHUT UP!
WELL, WORK HARD.
I will!!
He was supposed to be a compliment...
RUSTLE

.....
Huh. I guess the...
Listened to my song.
OH, STRAWBERRY DAIFUKU.
THAT WAS NICE.


Y'KNOW, PEOPLE HAVE TOLD ME THEY LIKE MY SINGING BEFORE...
MUCH
BUT NEVER, "I LOVE YOU."

I THOUGHT I'D TRY AND CONNECT A LITTLE BIT MORE.
IF I CAN REACH THE LIGHT...
THAT'S POSSIBLE, RIGHT?
!
OKAY.
A BLOG AND AN E-MAIL FORM...?
I'M GOING TO TRY KEEPING A DIARY FROM NOW ON. NOTHING TOO HUGE, THOUGH.
OKAY. WE'RE ROLLING.
hina Songs diary mai

'CAUSE IT'S GOOD.
drip
drip
.....
HIRU-CHAN...?
UH, Y-YEAH?
BUT IF I CAN REACH IT...
I DIDN'T THINK IT EXISTED.
CAN YOU...
ADD A LINK FOR E-MAIL...
TO MY SITE?
!
ARE YOU OKAY?

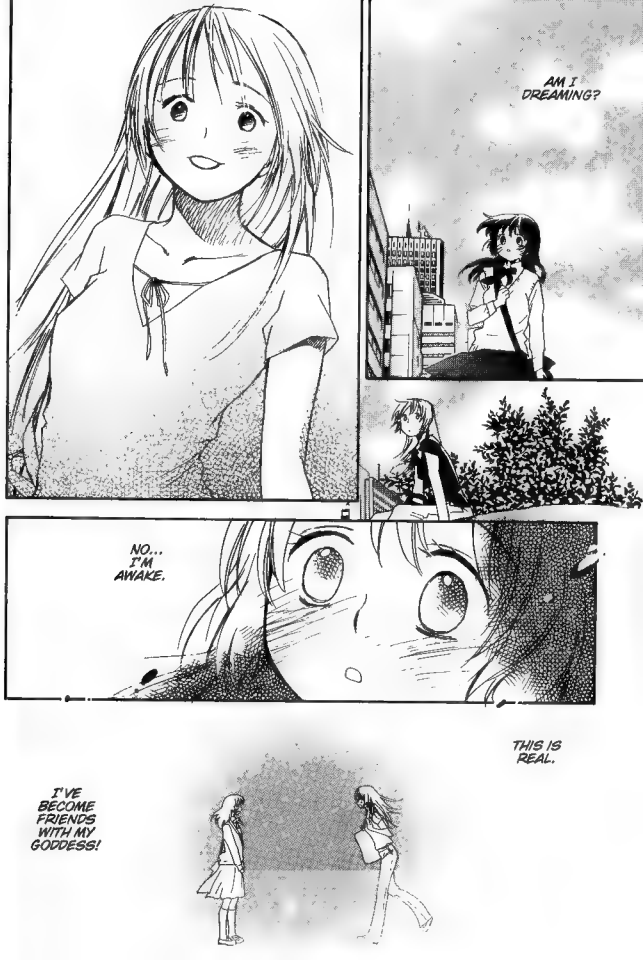

HER NAME'S "STRAWBERRY DAIFUKU-CHAN"?
AH! THERE'S A REPLY!
MAN, I CAN HARDLY WAIT 'TIL YOU FINALLY LEARN HOW TO USE THAT THING ON YOUR OWN.
NO MORE BUGGING ME ABOUT HOW TO CHECK YOUR E-MAIL. YEAH, THAT'LL BE THE DAY.
CLICK IT.
YEAH, OPEN THAT.
THANK YOU.
DATE
FROM
OH, SO HER NAME IS KANAE-CHAN.
HELLO. IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU. MY NAME IS KANAE. I'VE NEVER SENT ANYONE AN E-MAIL LIKE THIS BEFORE, BUT...
I'M THAT GIRL WHO SHOVED THE STRAWBERRY DAIFUKU ON YOU THE OTHER DAY.
I GOT ALL DEPRESSED THINKING THAT I'D WEIRDED YOU OUT...
BUT I'M GLAD THAT YOU THOUGHT IT WAS AWESOME.
What's the big deal?
HEY!
NO PEEKING!

SO TODAY...
I HAD SOME AWESOME STRAWBERRY DAIFUKU.

I'VE ALWAYS LOVED YOUR VOICE.
IT'S EMBARRASSING TO ADMIT THIS, BUT I'M KIND OF A SHUT-IN.
BUT LISTENING TO YOUR MUSIC HELPS GIVE ME THE COURAGE TO GO OUTSIDE.
YOUR MUSIC REALLY SPEAKS TO ME. IT'S LIKE LYRICS ARE ABOUT DEALING WITH THE PAIN LIFE THROWS AT US AND NOT RUNNING AWAY FROM IT.
HINA, I'M HAPPY YOU'RE ALIVE.

"I'M HAPPY YOU'RE ALIVE."

voiceful


AM I DREAMING?
NO... I'M AWAKE.
THIS IS REAL.
I'VE BECOME FRIENDS WITH MY GODDESS!

HINA
SHE ONLY RELEASES HER MUSIC ON THE INTERNET.
"MYTHICAL DIVA" HINA.
APPARENTLY, NO ONE HAS EVER HEARD HER VOICE IN PERSON.
WELL, THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY, AT LEAST.
CLICK
CLICK
OH!
You have 1 new message(
INBOX (1)

voiceful
2nd
THIS MARKS THE FIFTH TIME WE'VE GOTTEN TO HANG OUT TOGETHER.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I GOT LOST!!
OH NO! I'M LATE!!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
JEEZ...
I'M SUCH AN...!
OH, HINA...
MY DIVA... MY GODDESS...
KANAE-CHAN?

UH, I WEAR IT ALL THE TIME BECAUSE...
BLUSH
.....
WEAR YOUR UNIFORM WHEN WE'RE TOGETHER.
SAY, KANAE-CHAN... YOU ALWAYS...
YOU MUST LIKE IT, RIGHT?
URG
I'M JUST SOME LONER WHO STAYS AT HOME ALL THE TIME!!
'CAUSE I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ELSE TO GO OUT IN!
.....
UH, KANAE-CHAN...?

OH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO!
We're the same age.
OH...
BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN USING HONORIFICS...!
HUH?!
HINA, YOU'RE ONLY 17?!
YUP.
DID YOU THINK I WAS OLDER?
I get that a lot...
IT'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT...
YEAH, BUT...
I DIDN'T GO TO HIGH SCHOOL...
SO I KINDA MISSED OUT ON ALL THE UNIFORMS AND STUFF...
I'M REALLY TALKING TO HINA.
SITTING WITH HER LIKE THIS, FACE-TO-FACE.

DO I LOOK LIKE JUST THE PERFECT SCHOOL GIRL?!
I KNOW THE SHOES AREN'T RIGHT, BUT LET'S JUST IGNORE THOSE, KAY?
SHE'S NOT A "MYTHICAL DIVA."
OH, HINA...
YOU REALLY BOTCHED THIS RIBBON.
CLACK

JUST GIVE IT A TRY, OKAY?
SORRY...
DIDN'T MEAN TO BE PUSHY.
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO NOW?!
SOMEBODY EXPLAIN ALL THIS TO ME!!
I'VE NEVER WORN ANYTHING LIKE THIS...
WOW.
SORRY TO PUT YOU THROUGH THIS.
I JUST REALLY WANTED TO WEAR IT AT LEAST ONCE, Y'KNOW?
CLICK...

ACK!
GUESS I WAS LATE AGAIN, HUH?
HIRU-CHAN...!
I AM SO SORRY.
huff huff
WHY DO YOU SING?
TELL ME, HINA...
BZZZ
BZZZ
BZZZ
SHE'S NOT MYTHICAL AT ALL!
CLICK
SHE'S RIGHT HERE.

WHY DO YOU SING?

I LET MYSELF GET CARRIED AWAY!

BUT...
I...
I WANT TO SING...
...TOO.
WHO IS IT?
KANA-CHAN...
WELL...
TELL HER ALL THAT STUFF...
YOU JUST TOLD ME.
HIRU-CHAN...

I WANT TO SING-- MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE.
IT'S ALL I HAVE.
IF I DON'T SING, I'LL...
I DUNNO...
IT'S JUST... WHEN I SEE KANAE...
MY FEELINGS... THAT WEIRD STORM IN MY HEART...
IT, I DUNNO... IT CALMS. I CAN FEEL IT...

Ungh...
FELL ASLEEP WITH MY GLASSES ON AGAIN...
BUT WHAT A WEIRD DREAM...
Urg...

KNOCK KNOCK
DINNER'S READY.
I'M NOT HUNGRY.
OH.
KA...
KANA-CHAN...?

UGH, WHAT'D I EXPECT?
IT'S THE SAME THING.

YOU LEFT KANAE!
THE LADY AT HOME RIGHT NOW ISN'T MOMMY!
IT'S ME...
YOUR MOTHER.
I GUESS IT HAS BEEN A WHILE.
"MOTHER?"
YOU'RE NOT MY MOTHER.

WE DON'T HAVE A MOMMY!!

DISTANT.
OH...
BUT WE NEVER WOULD HAVE STARTED HANGING OUT...
IF IT WASN'T FOR THE INTERNET.
YOU DIDN'T GET LOST TODAY.

Still learning
Dear...
na...
Ka...
e...
tpk...
tpk...
Bye, laptop. Been nice knowin' ya...
Okay!
OPEN
NOW THAT I'M USING IT ON MY OWN, THE INTERNET SEEMS...
IT SEEMS PRETTY...
NO. NOTHING.
Hiru-chan's the net-savvy one.
HUH?
YOU SAY SOME-THING?

THE VOICE THAT GAVE LIFE TO ME...
HINA'S VOICE.

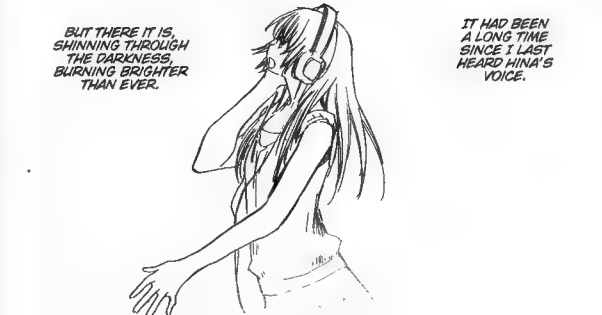
OH, UH...
WHAT IS IT?
I KNOW IT'S WEIRD TO ASK YOU THIS, JUST OUT OF THE BLUE...
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO BE SURE OF.
DO YOU...
STILL LIKE MY SINGING...
NOW THAT YOU KNOW ME?

I'M GOING TO FOCUS MORE ON MY SINGING.
IT'LL MEAN I WON'T HAVE AS MUCH TIME TO HANG OUT LIKE THIS, BUT...
BECAUSE I KNOW YOU BELIEVE IN ME...
I CAN DO IT.

IT'S RIGHT ACROSS FROM ME.
YEAH...
I STILL LIKE IT.
I... I LOVE IT.
HER VOICE IS REALLY HERE.
WHY...
THANKS.
I FEEL BETTER NOW.
WHY DO YOU ...?

voiceful
3rd

OH.
A NEW SONG...


BUT THERE IT IS, SHINNING THROUGH THE DARKNESS, BURNING BRIGHTER THAN EVER.
IT HAD BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I LAST HEARD HINA'S VOICE.

HE'S COOL. I'VE KNOWN HIM FOREVER.
ANYWAY, HE SAID HE WANTED TO HEAR YOU SING.
YOU'RE OKAY WITH THAT, RIGHT?
'SUP?
A VIDEO-GRAPHER?
UH...
SEE...
WHEN PEOPLE ARE AROUND, I GET--
HEY.
HINA.

DEAR KANAE,
HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
I'M RECORDING NEW TRACKS EVERY DAY NOW.
I HOPE YOU'RE LISTENING TO THEM.
PHEW
HINA....
WANNA TAKE A QUICK FIVE?

.....
HINA...
I WISH...
I FEEL WEAKER NOW THAN BEFORE WE EVER MET.
THERE WAS SOMETHING I COULD DO...
STREAMING VIDEO?
TO HELP HINA WITH HER SINGING.
IF WE'RE GONNA DO THIS, LET'S DO IT.
ALL THE WAY.
BUT NOW...
AT FIRST, IT WAS JUST ABOUT THE VOICE.
HER VOICE WAS WHAT GAVE ME COURAGE. THAT WAS ALL THERE WAS TO IT.

DO YOU REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME...
YOU EVER SANG IN FRONT OF ME?
I DO.
I'LL NEVER FORGET IT.
NOT THAT DAY...

HEY, TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST...
I THINK WE SHOULD GET YOU...
IN FRONT OF A LIVE AUDIENCE.
OR AT LEAST CUT A CD.
I KNOW I'VE NEVER HARPED ON IT OR ANYTHING...
'CAUSE I KNOW YOU'RE IFFY ABOUT STUFF LIKE THAT.
YEAH, I GUESS SO...
BUT...
NOW THAT YOU'RE NOT SEEING HER.
BUT DON'T YOU WANT TO SING MORE?
Y'KNOW...

THAT DAY WE MET...
IT WAS THE SAME DAY ONEECHAN DIED.
MY FATHER WAS A HORRIBLE MAN.
GOING HOME AFTER SCHOOL EVERY DAY WAS LIKE A PRISON SENTENCE.
CALM DOWN.
I SAID I WAS SORRY...
STOP! PLEASE ...!
WHAM
CRASH

SORRY.
I... I SHOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT IT UP. THAT WAS DUMB OF ME.
OR YOUR VOICE.
NO, IT'S OKAY.
I THINK I CAN TALK ABOUT IT.
YOU SURE YOU WANT TO HEAR IT, THOUGH?

WELCOME HOME.
AND OFF WE WENT, ON SOME ERRAND OR ANOTHER.
EVERY DAY, I'D STEP THROUGH THAT DOOR, AND THERE WAS ONEECHAN WITH A WARM...
THANKS TO HER...
OH, I WAS JUST ABOUT TO HEAD OUT.
PERFECT TIMING.
I ALMOST NEVER HAD TO SEE MY PARENTS FIGHT.
ONEECHAN PROTECTED ME.
I KNEW SHE WAITED AROUND FOR ME WHENEVER MY PARENTS SENT HER TO GO BUY SOMETHING.
IT WAS PERFECT TIMING, BECAUSE SHE ALWAYS MADE SURE IT WOULD BE.
UH-HUH.

YOU SHUT UP!
WHACK
AAGH!
HINA...
HI, ONEE-CHAN.
YUKI!!
HURRY UP AND GET THAT SAKE LIKE I TOLD YOU!
CLOSE
IN A WAY...
WELCOME HOME.
Smile
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT MY PARENTS LOOKED LIKE.
C'MON.
YOU HEAR ME?!

Sit

A WEEK LATER... ONEECHAN FELL DOWN THE STAIRS IN OUR APARTMENT.
HI...
HINA, ARE YOU OKAY?
WE DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS. YOU CAN STOP.
AND THEN...
MOM LEFT.

ONEECHAN WAS MY WHOLE WORLD.
HINA-CHAN...
YOU'RE A GOOD GIRL, YOU KNOW THAT?
AND ONEECHAN WILL BE...
BUT I STILL PULLED INTO MY SHELL. BY THE TIME I GOT TO BE SEVEN OR EIGHT, IT WAS HARD FOR ME TO TALK TO OTHER PEOPLE.

VERY HAPPY...
IF YOU CAN FIND A WAY TO BE HAPPY, TOO.

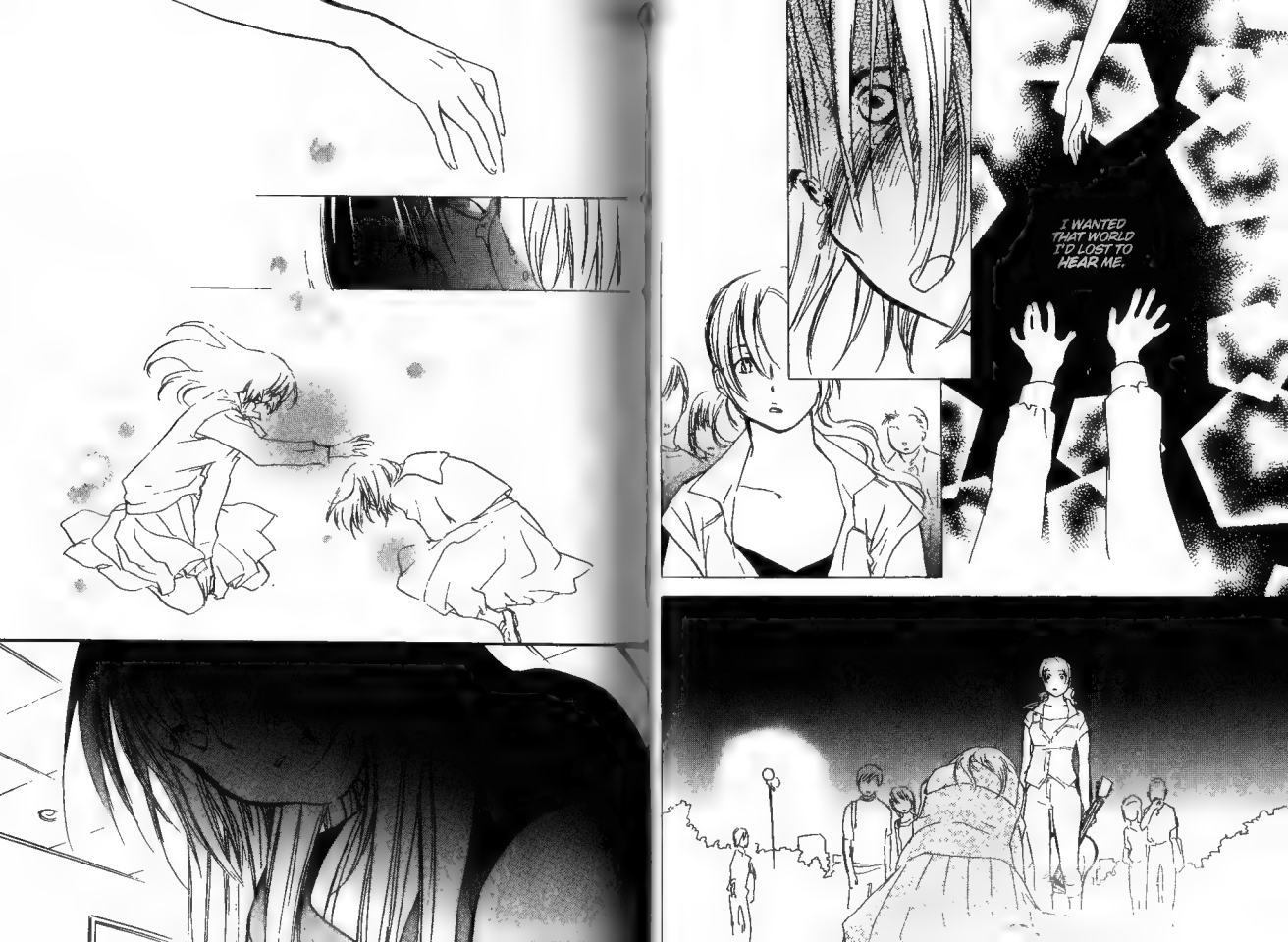
WHOA!
WASN'T EXPECTING THAT...!
HEY... WHAT'S WRONG?!
CLANK!

ONEE-CHAN...
DON'T LEAVE ME...
PLEASE...
HEY, YOU...
HEY.
SHIT.
CLUMSY BRAT.
HINA, GO BUY ME SOME DAMN SAKE.
OH.
I DIDN'T MEAN YOU HAD TO LEAVE.
ACTUALLY, DO YOU MIND STICKING AROUND?
I COULD USE AN AUDIENCE, IF YOU'RE NOT BUSY.
.....
THIS HERE IS MY SINGING SPOT, SEE?
Just scooch over a little bit... there, perfect.
Here, have a drink.
SLEEPING HERE'S A GOOD WAY TO GET RAPED, Y'KNOW.
YOU SICK OR SOMETHING?
SERIOUSLY, ARE YOU OKAY?

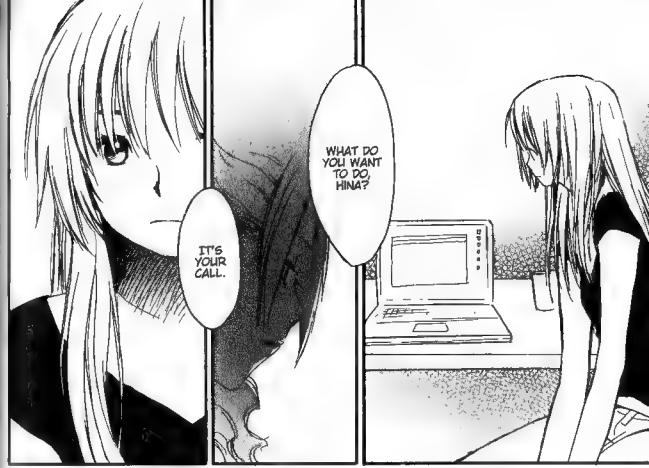
WHY THE LONG FACE? IS IT REALLY THE END OF THE WORLD?
BUT...
I GUESS YOU'RE NOT ONE FOR COMMAND PERFORMANCES.
HUH...
.....
Don't sweat it.
IT WAS, THOUGH.
AT THAT MOMENT...
IT WAS THE END OF THE WORLD.
WHEN ONEECHAN...

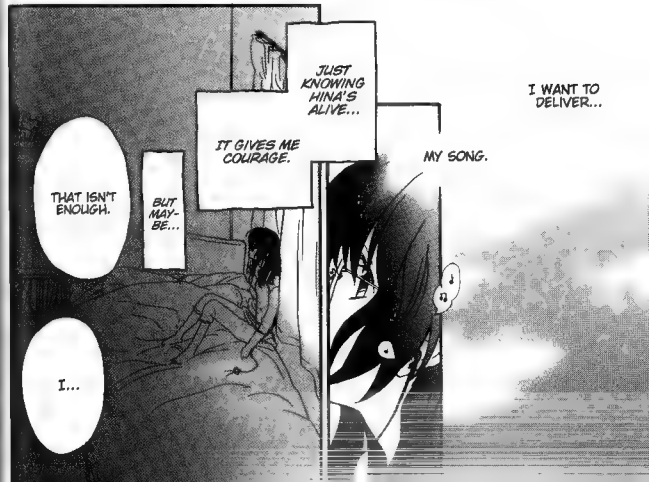
I JUST SAT ON THAT BENCH NEXT TO YOU AND LISTENED.
YOU CALLED IT YOUR "SINGING SPOT," BUT LOOKING BACK...
YOU SPENT MORE TIME PLAYING THE GUITAR.
"WHAT AM I DOING HERE...?" I THOUGHT.
SO.
YOU SKIP OUT ON YOUR FOLKS?
DO YOU LIKE TO SING? FEEL LIKE GIVIN' IT A GO?
HEE HEE. I'M ALWAYS EGGING PEOPLE ON TO SING MORE. SOMEBODY'S GOTTA DO IT, Y'KNOW?
HOW 'BOUT IT? WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SONG?

UM...
IF I SING...
DO YOU THINK I CAN REACH HER?
...?
HMMM?
MAYBE.
WANNA GIVE IT A TRY?
TO THIS DAY, I DON'T REMEMBER ONE WORD OF WHAT I SANG.
BUT I DID IT.


I WANTED
THAT WORLD
I'D LOST TO
HEAR ME.

THERE'S NO POINT IN EVEN TURNING ON MY COMPUTER.
THERE WON'T BE A MESSAGE. I WON'T SEE HER.
.....
MAYBE I WAS LYING TO MYSELF.
CLICK
You have 8 new messag
ADDRESS
SUBJECT
Dear Kanae
Dear Kanae
Dear Kanae: How are you?
Dear Kanae
Dear Kanae: This Is Hina
Kanae
.....


WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO, HINA?
IT'S YOUR CALL.

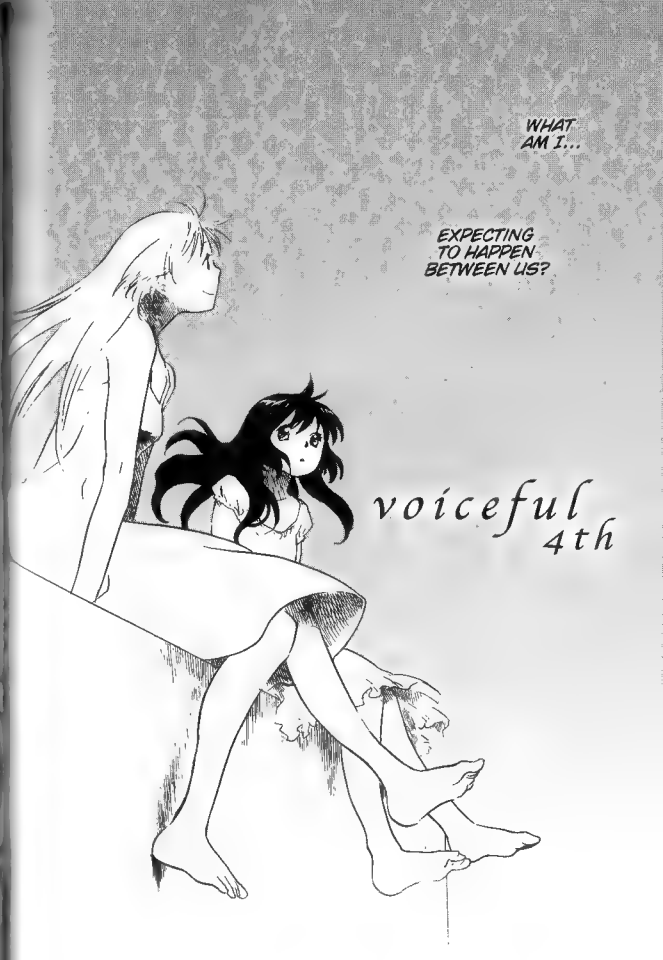

I WANT TO DELIVER...
MY SONG.
JUST KNOWING HINA'S ALIVE...
IT GIVES ME COURAGE.
BUT MAYBE...
THAT ISN'T ENOUGH.
I...

voiceful

I HAVE TO CHECK HER SITE!!
Whoa..!
WHOA...
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
HINA SONG MEDIA
NEW
RADIO
I'll be making a guest appearance on FM□□□ (00.0 MHz). There will be a live performance
ON AIR. . 00:00 ~ 00:00
FM□□□ website
http://ooo co.jp/oooooo
HINA...!!

BECAUSE I KNOW YOU BELIEVE IN ME...
I CAN DO IT.
I SHOULD BE...
HAPPY.
RADIO
I'll be making a guest ap
FM □□□ (00.0 MHz) There w
live performance
ON AIR 00:00 ~ 00:00
I WANT TO DO SOMETHING, BUT WHAT?
I WONDER...
WHAT IS IT I WANT FROM HINA?

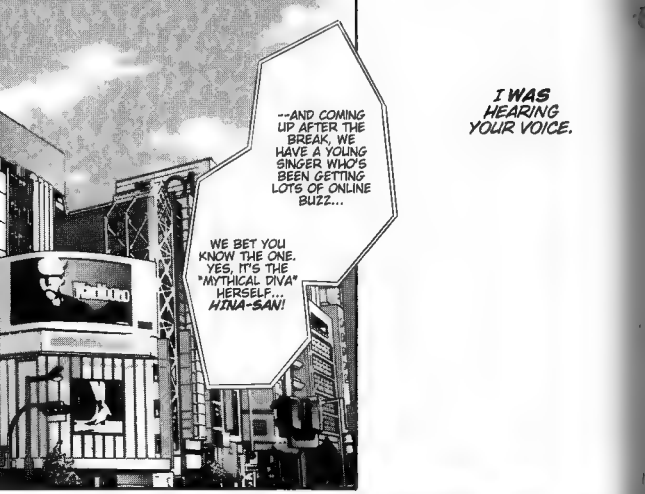
IT'S AMAZING, HINA.
YOU'RE GETTING TONS OF E-MAIL.
huh?
WOW...
HINA.
OH, SORRY.
GUESS I WASN'T LISTENING...


WHAT AM I...
EXPECTING TO HAPPEN BETWEEN US?
voiceful 4th

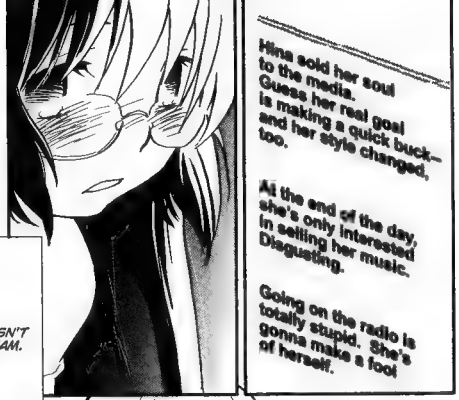
YOU CAN'T JUST HOLD THE WORLD AT ARM'S LENGTH-- IT'S ALL OR NOTHING WITH YOU.
YOUR SIS LOOKING OUT FOR YOU WAS A MIXED BLESSING.
HINA'S SONG...
I WONDER WHICH ONE IT'LL BE...?
XXX: X/XX X:XX AM
The radio thing is tomorrow.
XXX: X/XX X:XX AM
Is anyone going?
XXX: X/XX X:XX AM
It's too far for me to go, but I do want to see if she really exists.
ARE YOU OKAY?
I'M FINE!
IT WAS MY DECISION. I MADE IT FOR MYSELF.
SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO REALIZE WHEN SHE'S PUTTING TOO MUCH OF HERSELF OUT THERE.
OH, HINA...
I'VE GOT A FEELING...
THIS ISN'T GONNA GO SO WELL.

JUST A DREAM, DUMMY.
CREAK
SHUT UP.
I KNOW THAT, OKAY?
I KNOW.
SWIP

IT WAS LIKE A DREAM.
SIGH
GROWING CLOSE TO HINA...
IT WAS MY DREAM...
KANAE!


--AND COMING UP AFTER THE BREAK, WE HAVE A YOUNG SINGER WHO'S BEEN GETTING LOTS OF ONLINE BUZZ...
WE BET YOU KNOW THE ONE. YES, IT'S THE "MYTHICAL DIVA" HERSELF... HINA-SAN!

I WAS HEARING YOUR VOICE.

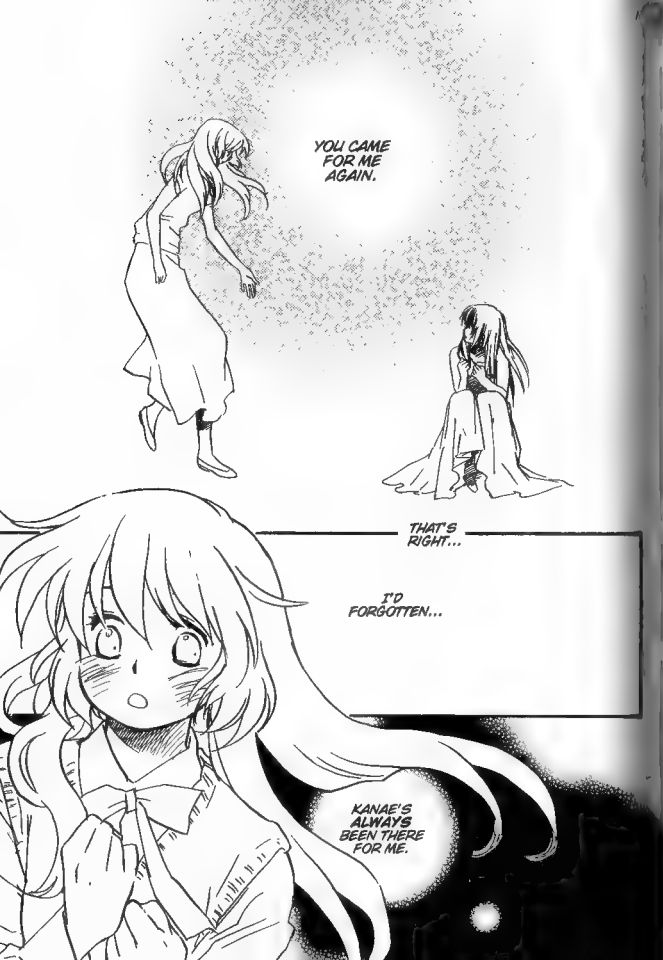

Hina sold her soul to the media.
Guess her real goal is making a quick buck— and her style changed, too.
At the end of the day, she's only interested in selling her music. Disgusting.
Going on the radio is totally stupid. She's gonna make a fool of herself.

HINA'S VOICE...

IT WASN'T A DREAM.

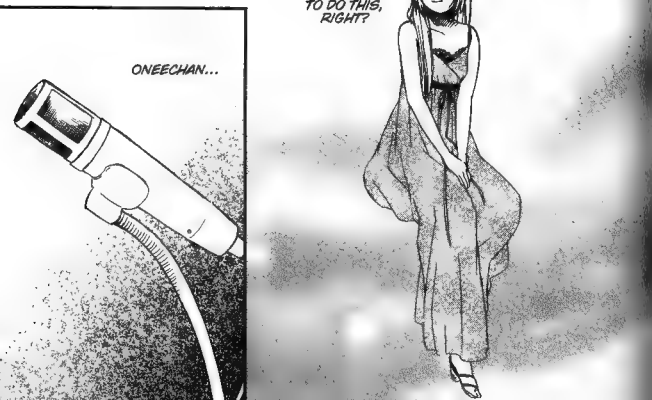
HINA.
MY VOICE...
I CAN'T EVEN SPEAK.
HINA-SAN...?
ARE YOU OKAY?
UH, WHICH WAY SHOULD I FACE WHILE I'M SINGING, AGAIN?!
DAMN...!
BAM

MAN, I WONDER IF...
I'LL BE ABLE TO SING WHEN IT'S--
OH, NO...
I... I JUST FORGOT HOW TO SING...!
UH, HINA-SAN...?
READY TO ROLL, HINA-SAN?
WE'LL BE GOING LIVE IN A MINUTE.


YOU CAME FOR ME AGAIN.
THAT'S RIGHT...
I'D FORGOTTEN...
KANAE'S ALWAYS BEEN THERE FOR ME.

HINA, ARE YOU HURT?! ARE YOU FEELING SICK OR SOMETHING?!
Mouthing words
WHAT'S WRONG?!
HINA-SAN...
YOU SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?
NO... I'M FINE, THANKS.
WE'RE ABOUT TO GO LIVE, SO...
IF YOU DON'T FEEL UP TO THIS, JUST SAY THE WORD.
AND WE'RE BACK!

Y'KNOW, WHERE MY VOICE WAS HEADING...
WELL, I...
I STARTED TO THINK ABOUT IT.


ONEECHAN...
IT'S OKAY FOR ME TO DO THIS, RIGHT?

EVER SINCE WE MET.

HINA...
SHE'S SMILING.
I'M GLAD.
SO, YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE YOUR MUSIC BEYOND THE CONFINES OF THE INTERNET.
HOW COME?

HINA...
HER VOICE...
IT'S AMAZING.
YEAH, IT'S BEAUTIFUL...
SHE KNOWS HER STUFF!
AH...
THAT FELT... GOOD.

I'M READY NOW.

I...
I CAME BECAUSE I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
BUT YOU WERE FINE.
SO I GUESS...
OH.
IS THAT WHAT'S GOT YOU SO DOWN IN THE DUMPS, SILLY?
PLEASE...
D-DON'T LAUGH.
BECAUSE, I--
THANK YOU FOR CARING.

THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME...
SINGING'S EVER FELT THAT GOOD.
UM...
SORRY I JUST SHOWED UP LIKE THIS.
WHY? THAT LOOKS CUTE ON YOU.
EH?
OH! UH... THIS?
I...I JUST BOUGHT IT.
DOES IT LOOK FUNNY?
YOU CAME DRESSED UP FOR ME.

TODAY, WHEN I HEARD YOUR SONG...
I FIGURED OUT SOME-THING.
I WAS LOOKING AT MYSELF...
IN YOUR DARKNESS.
THE PERSON I WAS REALLY WISHING HAPPINESS UPON...
WAS ME.

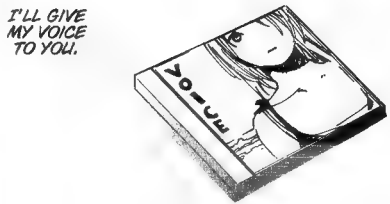
WHILE WE WERE APART, I... IT WAS HARD.
I KEPT WANTING YOU TO HEAR ME.
IT'S LIKE I WAS GOING AROUND IN CIRCLES, NOT GETTING ANYWHERE.
I WANTED TO SEE YOU.

YEAH. I LIKE YOU A LOT, KANAE.
ON THAT DAY...
WE CAN BECAME A LOT CLOSER THAN WE EVER HAD.
NOW WE CAN LOOK THROUGH THE DARKNESS AND SEE EACH OTHER.
THERE YOU ARE.

ME TOO.
I WAS ONLY THINKING OF MYSELF.
SELFISH... SO SELFISH OF ME.
I'M...
I'M SUCH A HORRIBLE PERSON.
THAT'S NOT TRUE. YOU'RE NOT HORRIBLE... OR EVEN SELFISH. YOU'RE AMAZING.
HINA... DO YOU... LIKE ME?

voiceful

KANAE...
WELCOME HOME.
IF YOU'RE WAITING FOR ME...
SUBJECT: This is Kanae
Dear Hina


I'LL GIVE MY VOICE TO YOU.

On Wings of Song

ALL SHE DID FOR TWO DAYS STRAIGHT WAS CRY.
KROOOOM
SHE DIDN'T EAT.
SHE DIDN'T SLEEP.
LIKE A BROKEN DOLL.
HERE. DRINK UP.
YOU GOTTA STAY HYDRATED, AT LEAST.
SOONER OR LATER, YOU'LL CRY YOURSELF OUT.

.....
YOU'LL CATCH A COLD IF YOU JUST STAND OUT THERE.
I WON'T BITE.
HERE...
LET'S GET SOME OF THE WATER OFF.
whump
I'M RUNNING YOU A BATH. THAT SHOULD GET YOU WARMED RIGHT UP.
HER FACE NEVER CHANGED.

BUT...
Easy Recipes 100
I JUST WANTED TO HEAR IT AGAIN...
THAT VOICE.
BUT MAYBE...
MAYBE IT LIVES IN A PART OF HER I CAN'T TOUCH.
THANK YOU...
I COULD BARELY LOOK AFTER MYSELF LET ALONE ANYONE ELSE.

I'M HOME...
HEY.
I THINK I WANT TO TOUCH BOTH THE VOICE AND THE GIRL.
THERE'S MORE TO IT...
THOUGH.
I'VE GOT A STUDIO SESSION TOMORROW.
FIGURED I SHOULD PRACTICE.
SAY, HINA...
HIRU-CHAN.
YOU WANT ME TO SING, HUH?
HIRU-CHAN...
I...
.....

voiceful

I KNOW.
I FELT LIKE I WAS GOING TO JUST DISAPPEAR.
THIS PLACE YOU WANT TO REACH...
I DON'T KNOW WHERE IT IS.
BUT I HOPE I CAN BE...
THE WINGS THAT LIFT YOU TO YOUR SONG.

Someone Special
とくべつなひと

I HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO ACT AROUND HER.
ON OUR SCHOOL TRIP, I FOUND OUT I WASN'T THE ONLY ONE...
THAT KOTO-CHAN...
I WISH SHE WERE MEAN.
C'MON, YOU KNOW WE CAN'T HATE HER.
THEN I COULD TOTALLY HATE HER.
THUD
EVERONE LIKES KOTO-CHAN!
OR DO WE ALL HATE HER? I DUNNO...
GANG

CAN TEACH ME SOME?!
IN THE COUNTRY, WE DO SOME ROLLER SKATING FOR P.E. CLASS, BUT NOTHING LIKE THIS!
Not even close!
SURE.
I CAN...
SHOOH!!
She's good!
SWISH
Hee hee.
YOU WERE LIKE A FIGURE SKATER OUT THERE!

?
I'VE KNOWN KOTO-CHAN FOR ABOUT THREE YEARS NOW.
SHE'S CUTE AND SUPER-TALENTED, AND BECAUSE OF THAT...
Yep!
Today is your first time ice skating, right?
You can actually stand up...?
UH... YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S AMAZING...

IT...
IT HURTS ...!
SHE'S CRYING...
I'VE NEVER SEEN HER CRY BEFORE.
IS THIS A FLEETING MOMENT FROM A DREAM?
OR A VISION THAT WILL LAST FOREVER...?
BECAUSE, TO ME, KOTO-CHAN IS THE MOST SPECIAL PERSON I KNOW.
THE BLOOD...
IT'LL STAIN YOUR CLOTHES...
EVEN IF I NEVER FIND OUT...
AKI-CHAN...
I HAVE TO MAKE IT COUNT...
I HAVE TO LIVE FOR THIS MOMENT...

OW...
SORRY...
HATE?
OH...!
AAAGHH!
GASP

FIRST PUBLISHED

Voiceful 1st	*Yuri Sisters* Vol. 5
Voiceful 2nd	*Comic Yuri Hime* Vol. 2
Voiceful 3rd	*Comic Yuri Hime* Vol. 3
Voiceful 4th	*Comic Yuri Hime* Vol. 4
On Wings of Song	Written for this book
Someone Special	*Yuri Sisters* Vol. 2
Opening	*Yuri Sisters* Vol. 1

Opening

Co-Writer: Neji Suzuki

Nice and tidy.
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...
YES, THANKS. I THINK I'M WELL ENOUGH TO ATTEND MY NEXT CLASS.
BUMP
Ha even ditches school assemblies
GUESS I COULD SHOW UP AT LEAST ONCE...
I HAVEN'T EVEN MET OUR STUDENT TEACHER FOR MUSIC CLASS YET.
BUT I CAN'T DEAL WITH CRAPPY STUDENT TEACHERS, TOO.
IT'S BAD ENOUGH WE HAVE TO TAKE USELESS CLASSES...
BUMP
THUD
FLAP
SCATTER
...in the long...
...winter...
Laa... la...
HM...
...will sing...
...a resting place...
CHIRP
CHIRP
OH, ONUKI-SAN.
ARE YOU FEELING BETTER?

WHAT A KLUTZ...
HEY...
whip whip
HUH?
WAIT, IS SHE ...?
GREEN FORMS
HERE YA GO.
cough...
.....
THANKS A BUNCH!
SHE'S KINDA...
WHAT A FAKE SMILE.
Smile
HUH?
DID SHE FALL?!
BLUSH

SHE'S ALWAYS SMILING, LIKE SHE'S SO UNIQUE...
CREEPY, HUH?
Hmph.
WHAT AN AIRHEAD.
.....
IT'S JUST SO FAKE...
OR EVEN WELL-BEHAVED?
WHO CARES IF YOU'RE A STRAIGHT-A STUDENT...

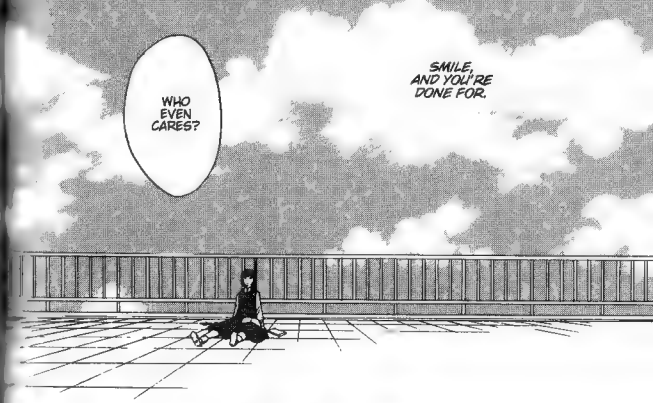
Y'KNOW...
KINDA...
SPILL
ABOUT THE MUSIC TEACHER, MISS KOJIMA...
OH, SHE'S GREAT!
SHE REALLY KNOWS HER STUFF, TOO. IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE SHE'S JUST A STUDENT TEACHER.
I KNOW!
UGH, NOW I KNOW WHAT SHE IS...
Annoying!
WHY?!
HOW COME NOBODY'S NOTICING HER FAKE SMILE?!
IT'S JUST... SO...!
You okay?
Onuki-san, you feeling sick again?

I DON'T THINK IT WAS A FIRE DRILL. MAYBE JUST A FALSE ALARM?
Oh, it stopped

BEEEEEEE
HUH?
THE ALARM?!

AHA HA HA!
.....
FOR A SECOND THERE, I THOUGHT MY SINGING SET IT OFF...!

"GOOD GRADES IN MUSIC CLASS DON'T GET YOU ANYWHERE."


WHO EVEN CARES?
SMILE, AND YOU'RE DONE FOR.

BEEEEEEE
GAAH!
Green...
...Forest...
THIS SONG...

EVERYONE'S CLEARED OUT, HUH?
AH HA HA HA!
MAYBE I'LL SWING BY THE OL'...
HA HA HA!
WHA?
NO ONE'S HERE...

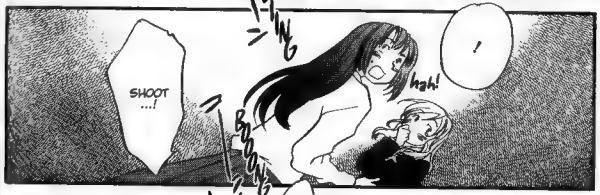
BUT SHE WANTS TO BECOME A MUSIC TEACHER. THAT'S WHY SHE'S HERE.
STUDENT TEACH-ING...
HMM... I WONDER WHAT IT'S LIKE TO ENJOY THE THING YOU DO.
BRRING
BRRING
WHA?!
IT'S AFTERNOON ALREADY?!
THE AFTER-SCHOOL BELL...
No way!
STARTLE
SHOOT, THEY'RE GONNA LOOK UP...!

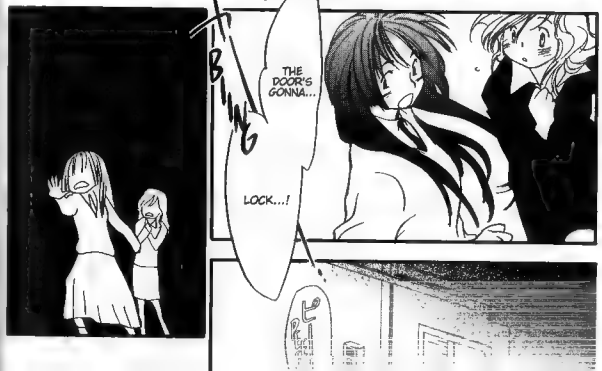
WHO IS THIS?
WHOA.
Y-YOU'RE THAT... STUDENT TEACHER.
SHIT
WAAAHH
WAAAHHH...
WAAAHHHH...
looooo...
THUD
THUD
FLINCH
STORAGE
UM...
EXCUSE ME...?
CLANG
THUMP
HUH?
WHAT THE...?
P-PLEASE OPEN THE DOOR...
THUD
UH, OKAY.
UH... H-HANG ON...
CLUNK
CLICK

AT OUR SCHOOL...
THE SECURITY SET-UP'S A BIT FUNKY.
IT'S JUST FOR THE ROOMS WITH EXPENSIVE EQUIPMENT IN THEM, OR SOMETHING.
YOU KNOW HOW THE ALARM WENT OFF EARLIER?
WHEN THAT HAPPENS, THE SPECIAL CLASSROOMS AUTOMATICALLY LOCK UP!
YOU'D THINK THEY'D REALIZE THAT...
"HEY, MAYBE FOLKS'LL GET STUCK INSIDE"? BUT NOOO.

.....
sniff
HEY, SENSEI...
CAN YOU AT LEAST EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED?
I MIGHT AS WELL KNOW WHY I'M STUCK HERE.

Hic
Hic
Hic
Hic
ARE...
YOU OKAY NOW?


BLING
SHOOT ...!
BLOOOO
hah!
!


BLING
THE DOOR'S GONNA...
LOCK...!

Eh? A piano cover...?
ARE YOU AWAKE?
WHERE CAN WE GO TO FILL IN THE HOLES?
God. You're slow...
Oh.
YOU'RE THAT GIRL WHO PICKED UP MY SHEET MUSIC.
THOSE GIRLS IN MY CLASS LOCKED YOU IN THERE, DIDN'T THEY?

WELL, I GUESS IT'S OBVIOUS.
KEYS HANGING IN THE DOOR... YOU STUCK INSIDE...
SOME-BODY MUST'VE, WELL...
.....
JEEZ...
HEY, I FEEL LIKE CRYING, TOO, Y'KNOW!!
Sniff
Sniff
IS THIS MY PUNISH-MENT...
FOR LIVING A LIFE OF LIES?
I'M BEING PUNISHED, IS THAT IT?

THEN THOSE GIRLS STARTED LAUGHING AT ME...
You like dark places, don't cha, Sensei? Have fun in there!!
HAH!
I DIDN'T KNOW THE DOORS LOCKED DURING AN ALARM...
AND I... I KINDA PANICKED.
WHY WERE YOU STILL HERE?
SO, HOW ABOUT YOU?
UH...
I...
HA HA HA
I, UH...
I LIKE TO SING, SO...
.....
BLUSH

YOU KEEP SEEING ME AT MY ABSOLUTE WORST.
IF...
Giggle
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT? I'VE NEVER EVEN BEEN TO YOUR CLASS.
Huh?
OH... YOU MUST BE ONUKI-SAN.
Well, you were the only name with no face attached to it, so...
IF I CAN STOP LYING...
WILL I BE ABLE TO LAUGH STUFF OFF LIKE SHE DOES?
MAYBE? SOMEDAY ...?
ONUKI-SAN ...?

I ONLY LEARNED IT BY EAR.
DID I GET THE WORDS RIGHT?
IT WAS NICE...
When spring winds blow...
You will revive.
I CAN TELL YOU REALLY LIKE TO SING.
AS FOR ME... I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF I WANT TO BECOME A TEACHER.
BUT HERE I AM, STUDENT TEACHING...
OH, I ENVY YOU.

SING.
I'VE NEVER TOLD THAT TO ANYBODY!
WOULD YOU SING SOMETHING?
In the long winter, storms will hurt you.
You give me a resting place.
I will sing.
O, green forest...
Treetops will be cold...
And invite the snow.
AH! WOW...

Thank you for reading. Although it's a sad story, this is actually the first ongoing series I was able to draw well! (I hope?!)
I think it was also the first time I caused so many people so much trouble.

It's a yuri magazine, but it's pretty far from yuri, so I have to apologize for that. I kept thinking about relationships that can only "take root between girls" while I was drawing this.

I know I don't work hard enough, but I'll keep trying!!
Thank you very much.

Spring, 2006
Nanoko

Thank you to all the people who gave me so much help:

Suzuki Neji-san
Yukari-chan
Naozumi
My editor N-san

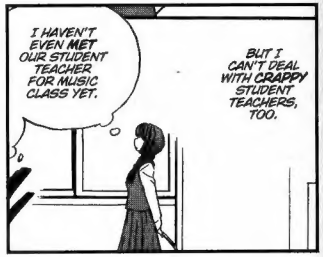
I couldn't have done this without you all.

THAT'S THE ONE.
ISN'T IT LOVELY?
THE ONE WHERE YOU GOT CURED OF YOUR CLAUSTRO-PHOBIA?
Ah.
YES. THIS IS A TAPE OF THE KIDS AT THE SCHOOL WHERE I DID MY STUDENT TEACHING.
Hey there.
HEY, WHAT'S THAT SONG?
SOME CHORAL PIECE?
MORNIN'.

TRANSLATION NOTES

Strawberry Daifuku (Page 10)
A *daifuku* is a Japanese confection made of rice cake filled with a sweet filling such as red bean paste. In this case, the *daifuku* in question is filled with strawberries.

Student Teaching (Page 125)
In Japan, those seeking a teaching credential have to student teach at a school for a period of two to eight weeks.



JAPANESE HONORIFICS GUIDE

To ensure that all character relationships appear as they were originally intended, all character names have been kept in their original Japanese name order with family name first and given name second. For copyright reasons, creator names appear in standard English name order.

In addition to preserving the original Japanese name order, Seven Seas is committed to ensuring that honorifics—polite speech that indicates a person's status or relationship towards another individual—are retained within this book. Politeness is an integral facet of Japanese culture and we believe that maintaining honorifics in our translations helps bring out the same character nuances as seen in the original work.

The following are some of the more common honorifics you may come across while reading this and other books:

•***san*** – The most common of all honorifics, it is an all-purpose suffix that can be used in any situation where politeness is expected. Generally seen as the equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., Mrs., etc.

•***sama*** – This suffix is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect upon an individual.

•***kun*** – This suffix is commonly used at the end of boys' names to express either familiarity or endearment. It can also be used when addressing someone younger than oneself or of a lower status.

•***chan*** – Another common honorific. This suffix is mainly used to express endearment towards girls, but can also be used when referring to little boys or even pets. Couples are also known to use the term amongst each other to convey a sense of cuteness and intimacy.

Sempai – This title is used towards one's senior or "superior"in a particular group or organization. "Sempai" is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to upperclassmen as "sempai," though it is also commonly said by employees when addressing fellow employees who hold seniority in the workplace.

Sensei – Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

Oniisan – This title literally means "big brother." First and foremost, it is used by younger siblings towards older male siblings. It can be used by itself or attached toa person's name as a suffix (niisan). It is often used by a younger person toward an older person unrelated by blood, but as a sign of respect. Other forms include the informal "oniichan" and the more respectful oniisama."

Oneesan – This title is the opposite of "oniisan" and means big sister." Other forms include the informal "oneechan" and the more respectful "oneesama."

comment

nawoko

It was a shaky path, but I managed to put it all together in one book. I'll probably always be on shaky legs, and I'm sorry, but I thank you very much for reading.

Voiceful

story & art by Nawoko

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